

Municipal crime fighting partnership.

Local government, business and police use IP-Surveillance to combat crime.



Organization:
Msukaligwa
Municipality

Location:
Msukaligwa,
South Africa

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Making the streets
safer

Axis partners:
Proxim, shop4security
and Visec

Mission

Msukaligwa Municipality in South Africa, one of the smaller towns in the country, was faced with escalating crime in the Central Business District. They determined to install a video surveillance system as a Public Safety project, with the aim of making the streets safer and thereby promoting tourism and protecting the interests of local businesses. The Municipality wanted to apply current technology to emulate successful projects carried out in major cities like Cape Town and Johannesburg, but wanted to do so without massive capital expenditure.

Solution

A tender was put out to local companies for a network video system modelled on camera surveillance in London (UK). Local support, integration with existing infrastructure and price were the major criteria, and Axis partner Shop 4 Security was awarded the tender for the design and installation of the system. The solution proposed uses a combination of dome and fixed network cameras, linked primarily by Proxim Tsunami MP.11 5.8GHz wireless

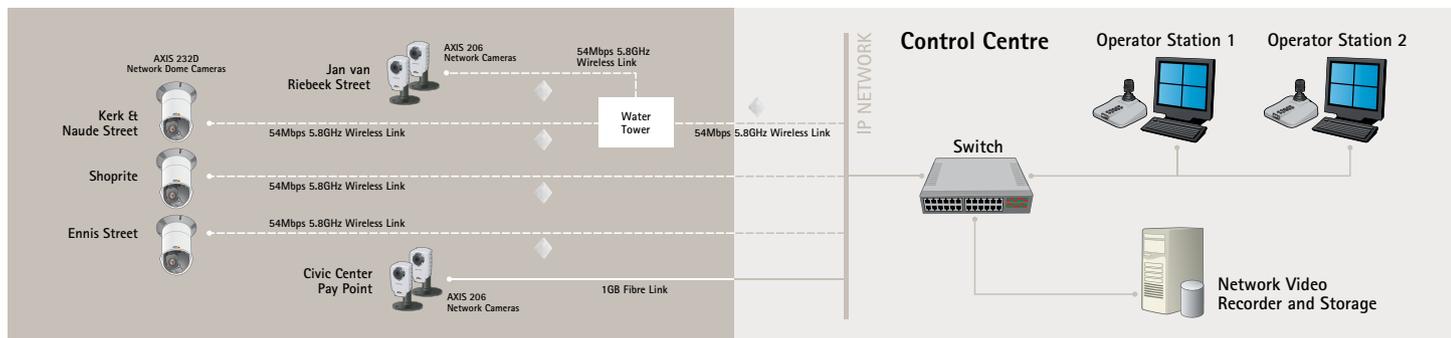
links operating at 54Mbps to provide high quality day/night coverage of the CBD and other key points, and is readily extendible to cover private businesses, homes and farms. Visec NVR 64 Enterprise recording software was used on the main console and two instances of VISEC NVR 16 for the controller and for a backup station.

Result

Within two weeks of commissioning, crime in the monitored area dropped by 30% (unofficial police statistics), and more than halved over the next three months. Public perception of the area has improved significantly, and the project is seen as an example for other towns to follow.

"Using network video rather than traditional analog CCTV gave us more flexibility and simplified integration with the current network infrastructure in the Msukaligwa Municipality."

Retief Bezuidenhout, Partner, Shop 4 Security.



A security partnership

The Msukaligwa project was envisaged from conception as a partnership between local government, local businesses and the residents, with a common interest in reducing crime in the area.

The control room today is monitored by personnel from the South African Police Service (SAPS), private security firms, the Fire Station, and Brug- B Farm Watch (a citizens' crime prevention group). The cameras are located on private business properties, and the control room is in local government offices.

The system currently comprises three AXIS 232D Network Dome Cameras that provide 360° coverage and an 18x zoom to home in on events, and four AXIS 206/207 fixed cameras monitoring high risk pay points. The dome cameras, with their ability to work down to 0.005 lux, deliver clear images with available light under nearly all conditions. A further 4 AXIS 211 and 5 AXIS 232D+ Network Cameras will follow shortly.

Easy extensibility

The system design and implementation was awarded to Axis partner Shop 4 Security under the direction of Retief Bezuidenhout: "It was a key requirement that the system should be able to start small on a limited budget but be easily extended. The CBD monitoring had to be able to be extended to residences and even outlying farms. An IP-Surveillance system meets this requirement perfectly."

A pilot phase with one camera demonstrated the feasibility of video streaming over wireless links and that the

required data rates could be supported. Images are streamed at 24fps in MPEG-4 at 20% compression. Each camera provides two permanent streams: one to an operator and one to the storage server. Although primarily a digital solution, some low-cost analog monitors have also been deployed, using AXIS 292 Network Video Decoders to feed them. "Working with a supplier with a comprehensive range of the most advanced IP video devices made for a relatively simple implementation of a state-of-the-art solution." Each operator has a video wall with four 27" LCD scene monitors and two 19" LCD screens for hot views and system console use, managed by the VISEC NVR software.

The eyes of the law

Currently the video monitoring underpins a rapid response to incidents, and provides police with valuable input in identifying and pursuing criminals. The SAPS in Msukaligwa are fully committed to the project, and the project managers are in the process of getting final approval from the Department of Justice and the local magistrates for the video footage to be admissible in a court of law. Once this is finalized they will be able to pass video footage on to magistrates and state prosecutors to be used directly as evidence.

There are discussions under way to expand the system scope to include the national roads monitoring and management objectives, and plans to add the VISEC Licence Plate Recognition module for immediate identification of fraudulent or suspect number plates.



proxim
wireless

SHOP 4 SECURITY
YOUR BEST PARTNER IN SECURITY

VISEC
VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SOFTWARE